



February Program

What is InSTEP?

Our February speaker will be Kelly Weeks who is a lifelong resident of Colorado, attending local public schools and graduating from R-5 High School in 1984. After years of working at various jobs, none of which was totally fulfilling, she took an aide position at her old high school, R-5.

Soon she was encouraged to become a teacher which meant needing college. So, at age 34 she started at Colorado Christian University and in two and a half years had a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Management. Kelly then went on to get a Secondary English Teaching Credential from Western State College and an ACE (Alternative Cooperative Education) Credential from Colorado State University. Finally, she earned a Master's in Special Education from University of Northern Colorado just about the time she turned 40.



After spending 15 years at R-5 High School, Kelly transferred over to the Career Center's InSTEPS (Individualized Student-centered Employment Program Services) in 2016. This is the district's transition program for students 18-21 years old with significant cognitive delays. She collaborates with families, businesses, and community agencies to provide job placement opportunities for her students. With the students, she practices life, social and vocational skills, as well as having fun.

Kelly's daughter Melissa is now 24, and continues to live in Grand Junction. She is an aspiring artist and has had her work displayed in local venues. Kelly lives with her partner of four years, Mike, and enjoys traveling in their little camper and hiking. Recently, they have been exploring National Parks during the summers or spring breaks. They also love baseball! She and Mike are unified players with local Special Olympics teams or you might also see us at JUCO, G.J. Rockies or at the Colorado Rockies games.

In the photo Kelly is sitting on the left side, beside the job coaches in her program.

When: Wednesday, **February 13**....from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Where: Chez Lena Restaurant (ordering from their menu)
Western Colorado Community Campus (WCCC)
2508 Blichmann Avenue, Grand Junction

COME JOIN YOUR AAUW FRIENDS. GUESTS ARE WELCOME.

Be kind and **RSVP** to Jeannie Dunn **no later than February 11th** by either calling (970) 242-3177 or by emailing at jeannedunn01@gmail.com.

Branch President Virginia Brown 201-0386
VP Program Jeannie Dunn 242-3177
Secretary Jean Yale 257-0697

VP Membership Kathy Singer 261-2112
Treasurer Jane Fitzgerald 241-9684
Newsletter Editor Jane Fitzgerald

What You May Have Missed Last Month

Our speaker for the January meeting was Kelly Reuss, Director of Student Services at Western Colorado Community College. Prior to starting this position last Fall, Kelly worked on the CMU campus setting up the IRIS (Integrated Resources for Information and Solutions) Program. CMU had noticed that incoming students were frequently not aware of what all was available to them, and when problems occurred, were dropping out of school. Once IRIS was functioning everything a new student needs is at a one-stop place...administration, financial aid, advisors, mentors. Tuition can even be arranged to be paid monthly, interest free.

AT WCCC, Kelly started with an open door policy for her office, so that students would not be intimidated. She is working to get IDRS implemented there. We were unaware that WCCC now has programs whereby high school students can take classes at WCCC. Also, high school sophomores are now taking tours of tech classes to experience other occupations.

There were also guest speakers to encourage us to sign up for New Dimensions classes and to provide information about the proposed GJ Community Center. The following was provided by organizer Susan Capps:

GJ Community Center ?

On April 2nd, residents of Grand Junction will finally get to vote on whether or not it's time for a community center.

The Community Center proposal on April's ballot includes three main components:

- **A 98,000 sq. ft. community center** located at Matchett Park. This will include: warm-water, lap, and leisure pools; 2 pool-party rooms; a 3-court gymnasium; an indoor walking track; 3 multi-purpose meeting rooms; gathering spaces; a bouldering wall; fitness areas; child supervision services; tenant lease space.
- **75 acres of park development** at Matchett including: 7 multi-purpose fields; walking paths; a plaza; playgrounds; restrooms/shelters; 4 basketball courts; 12 pickleball courts; 8 tennis courts; a pond; a skatepark.
- **Renovation of the existing Orchard Mesa pool, gymnasium, and adjoining facilities.** Additions include: a new social zone with snack bar; family dressing areas; 2 multi-purpose rooms; a pool-party room; a new spa.

If approved, the community center, park development, and renovation/expansion at Orchard Mesa will be funded by a 0.39% city sales tax increase. That tax would not apply to unprepared food, gas, prescriptions, or services. The average household in Grand Junction would pay approximately \$4.39 per month, and this will cover the cost of construction and ongoing operations and maintenance.

There's a lot of work to be done to make this Community Center a reality. To get the vote out the campaign needs help with yard signs, phone bank, office work, house parties, call trees, neighborhood canvassing, snacks. Anyone who would like to help, please contact: gjcommunitycenter.org.

Coming on March 13, 2019

In Conjunction with National Women's History Month
The Grand Junction Branch of AAUW
will award its first

Women Who Make History Award

to

Jane Quimby

The focus of the award is to recognize women who make a difference in our community. Jane Quimby has certainly done that! Quimby is currently the director of the department of public safety at Colorado Mesa University and supervises the peace officer academy, the wildlife fire program, the EMS program and emergency dispatch classes. She teaches classes primarily on criminal investigations. She is a law school graduate and also a retired FBI agent with more than 20 years of experience in the field. And before that she was a high-school and college basketball coach. Currently, Quimby also operates a private investigation and security consulting business, Quimby & Associates, LLC. Jane is the daughter of former GJ Mayor, AAUW member, and for whom our Book Group is named... Jane Quimby.

Silent Auction

We have many interesting items which will be available, including a brand new LA Rams windbreaker.

Luncheon at Chez Lena

The award will be presented during our luncheon meeting on Wednesday, March 13 at Chez Lena Restaurant on the WCCC Campus, starting at 11:30 am. We hope all members will be able to attend this important event. **Many reservations have already been made by Quimby fans: Jeannie Dunn recommends you make yours now as space is limited at Chez Lena.** RSVP to Jeannie Dunn by either calling (970) 242-3177 or by emailing at jeanniedunn01@gmail.com, specify March meeting.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Culture Club



The AAUW Culture Club is a loosely organized effort to inform interested members about movies, music and other cultural events in the Grand Valley. It is also a way to find others to attend these events with. Note: Peggy Rawlins at 263-4741 is the contact person for the group.

- February 6 @ 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm
Fathom Events encore presentation of *Live from the Met*: Bizet's **CARMEN** (opera) - shown at the Regal Theater (3 hours, 40 minutes)
- February 9 @ 12:55 pm
Fathom Events encore presentation of *Live from the Met*: Bizet's **CARMEN** (opera) - shown at the Regal Theater (3 hours, 40 minutes)
- February 9 @ 7:30 pm and February 10 @ 3:00 pm
GRAND JUNCTION SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT at the Avalon Theater – 40th Anniversary
Reception to follow the performance
- February 13 @ 7:30 pm
CMU Music presents **VALENTINE'S FACULTY GALA** - Love Recital Hall - Moss Performing Arts Center
- February 14, 15, 16 @ 7:30 pm
CMU Theater presents **DOG SEES GOD: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead** - in the Experimental Theater of the Moss Performing Arts Center at CMU
- February 14, 15, 16 @ 7:00 pm
LOVE LETTER, a play by A.R. Gurney at the Western Colorado Center for the Arts
- February 17 @ 4:00 pm
CMU Music presents **BRIAN KRINKE, violin & ARTHUR HOULE, piano** - Love Recital Hall - Moss Performing Arts Center
- February 22 @ 4:00 pm
CMU Music presents **GRAHAM ANDURLRIAN, baritone** - Love Recital Hall - Moss Performing Arts Center
- February 28 @ 7:30 pm
CMU Theater presents the musical **REEFER MADNESS** in the Robinson Theater of the Moss Performing Arts Center at CMU

Possible Local AAUW Dues Increase

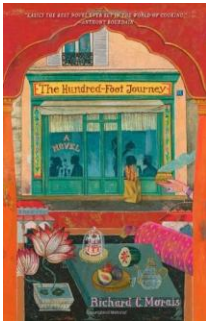
The Branch Board has been trying to determine the best way to bring in more funds to keep our programs and activities going. We have tried some fund raising activities with minimal success. Activities to increase the branch membership have not produced the hoped for results. So, we are left with a dues increase. Currently local dues are \$18. If raised by \$3, the overall dues for next year would be \$80; if raised to \$23, it would be \$100. What do you think?

The Jane Quimby Book Group

February's Read: *The Hundred-Foot Journey* by Richard C. Morais

"That skinny Indian teenager has that mysterious something that comes along once a generation. He is one of those rare chefs who is simply born. He is an artist."

And so begins the rise of Hassan Haji, the unlikely gourmand who recounts his life's journey in Richard Morais's charming novel, *The Hundred-Foot Journey*. Lively and brimming with the colors, flavors, and scents of the kitchen, *The Hundred-Foot Journey* is a succulent treat about family, nationality, and the mysteries of good taste.



When tragedy pushes the family out of India, they console themselves by eating their way around the world, eventually settling in Lumière, a small village in the French Alps. They open an inexpensive Indian restaurant opposite an esteemed French *relais*—that of the famous chef Madame Mallory—and infuse the sleepy town with the spices of India, transforming the lives of its eccentric villagers and infuriating their celebrated neighbor. Only after Madame Mallory wages culinary war with the immigrant family, does she finally agree to mentor young Hassan, leading him to Paris, the launch of his own restaurant, and a slew of new adventures.

The Hundred-Foot Journey is about how the hundred-foot distance between a new Indian kitchen and a traditional French one can represent the gulf between different cultures and desires.

Friday, February 15th, 9:30 am
American Lutheran Church, 631 26½ Road, GJ
No Formal Presenter: Group Discussion Instead

Note: The film version starring Helen Mirren was released in 2014.

Coffee & Chat

This informal (fun) group normally meets the 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30 AM to try to solve world/local problems through discussions. Call Jane at 241-9684 with any questions.
 Join us on **February 23th** at **The Artful Cup**, 3090 North 12th, GJ.

Happy Birthday to You

Your AAUW Branch wishes to acknowledge its members and let you know we appreciate you.
 Therefore we wish a Happy Birthday to those with birthdays in February.

Lehua La'a on the 3rd **Lori Wood on the 4th**

Thoughts from Virginia Brown, Branch President

Kathy Singer and I are headed to the State AAUW Public Policy Day. Please plan on attending the February meeting at Chez Lena on February 13 to hear what we learned and how AAUW is working to promote equality at the State level for our benefit.

Update for Strawberries & Chocolate Event

I realized that on the date I had originally selected for the event that our University Students would all be in class and would not be able to attend. As a result, I rescheduled the event to:

**Saturday, February 23, 2019
2 to 5 pm**

Please mark your calendar and plan to not only attend but bring a neighbor, daughter, granddaughter, niece, sister, friend, younger woman, older woman, men, etc. I would love to have a diverse attendance at the event, since with AAUW "there shall be no barriers....on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status."

I will be providing the chocolate fountain, strawberries and beverages.
Please bring something different to dip into the chocolate and/or a savory dish.



From the recipient of the 2018-2019 WCCC Scholarship:

Dear AAUW,

I am sincerely grateful for the scholarship received for the 2018-2019 academic year. I am honored to be the recipient this year. Your generosity has been helpful in attaining my degree as a pilot without increasing my debt.

I will be finishing my private pilot license in the next few weeks and I am looking forward to starting in January on my instrument rating and ground school, along with some other necessary classes. This is an exciting endeavor as it has been a dream of mine for a very long time.

Again, thank you for your generous support. I look forward to the day when I am able to support others with their goals as well.

Sincerely,

Katherine Galvan